

**Summary Minutes**  
**Operations & Scheduling Committee**  
City of Pleasant Hill Community Room  
100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA  
**April 11, 2014, 8:30 a.m.**

**Directors:** Directors Candace Andersen, Jack Weir, Dave Hudson

**Staff:** Rick Ramacier, Anne Muzzini, Bill Churchill, and Laramie Bowron

**Public:** Judy Barrientos, Jomo Sims, and Tyrone Bowie

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m. by Director Weir

**1. Approval of Agenda Items:** Agenda was approved.

**2. Public Comment and/or Communication:**

- a. Tyrone, Bowie, a First Transit Operator, commented on First Transit's service and scheduling practices. He stated that he was concerned about his clients, many of whom are 60 – 90 years old, waiting too long for service. He concluded by stating that First Transit is failing these clients and that they need to be treated better.
- b. Jomo Sims, a First Transit Shop Steward, commented on First Transit's working conditions. He presented a petition to the Committee signed by 40 individuals stating their dislike of First Transit.
- c. Judy Barrientos, local ATU President and County Connection Operator stated that First Transit was not behaving properly and not offering their employees livable wages.

**3. Approval of O&S Summary Minutes for March 7, 2014:** Minutes were approved.

**4. Operations:**

- a. Paratransit Maintenance and Operations Contract Award: Mr. Churchill presented this item and explained that the paratransit contract award represents the culmination of a yearlong process. He went on to state that County Connection formed an evaluation team consisting of Mr. Churchill, Mr. Ramacier, and two other General Managers to review the 4 bids that were received. Mr. Churchill then described the evaluation methodology including the 10% bonus for retaining current staff. Director Weir asked whether this was a technique used in the past to which Mr. Churchill stated that it is a common practice in the transit industry. Director Andersen asked for more information regarding the bidder with the lowest cost. Mr. Churchill responded by saying that the evaluators looked at the quality of services for the cost. MV had the lowest cost but the highest profit margin. Mr. Churchill went on to say that other red flags included low wages and high part time drivers. This narrowed the proposals to Viola and First Transit. The evaluation team determined that transitioning would be difficult and that Viola was more expensive and overly vague when discussing service improvements. This led the evaluation team to recommend that the paratransit contract be awarded to First Transit. The Committee supported the methodology and recommendation.

Public comment – Jomo Sims stated that the evaluation team needed to look at how each bidder treated their employees. Mr. Ramacier responded by reminding the Committee that the paratransit contract has a fail-safe clause allowing County Connection terminate the agreement should it be needed. Judy Barrientos stated that First Transit does not pay their employees living wages and Tyrone Bowie commented on First Transit's poor scheduling.

**5. Planning and Scheduling:**

- a. Recommended Service Changes to Route #2, 5, and 7: Mr. Bowron presented this item and explained the service changes along with the public outreach and Title VI Analysis. The Committee agreed with the proposal and recommended forwarding the item to the Board for adoption.
- 6. Staff Reports**
    - a. Fixed Route Monthly Report – February 2014 – Ms. Muzzini presented the fixed-route report and noted that ridership steady and on pace with previous year’s performance. The report was approved without comment.
    - b. LINK Monthly Report – February 2014 – Mr. Churchill presented the report which was approved without comment.
  - 7. Committee Comments** – None.
  - 8. Future Agenda Items** – None.
  - 9. Next Scheduled Meeting** –The next meeting is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am at the City of Pleasant Hill Conference Room.
  - 10. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Laramie Bowron, Manager of Planning